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REQUISITES FOR A THEATRE PARTY.

He: LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE TO-NIGHT, AND ASK THE BRAGDON-IVERS TO GO WITH US. DO YOU THINK I'D BETTER GET A BOX?

The Bride: OH, NO, DON'T GET A BOX. WHAT'S THE USE OF IT? THE BRAGDON-IVERS ARE NOT VERY TALKATIVE YOU KNOW, AND I AM SO HOARSE I CAN'T TALK ABOVE A WHISPER MYSELF.

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ET,
1853.

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Gwendolyn:—Thank you so much.



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VOLUME XV.

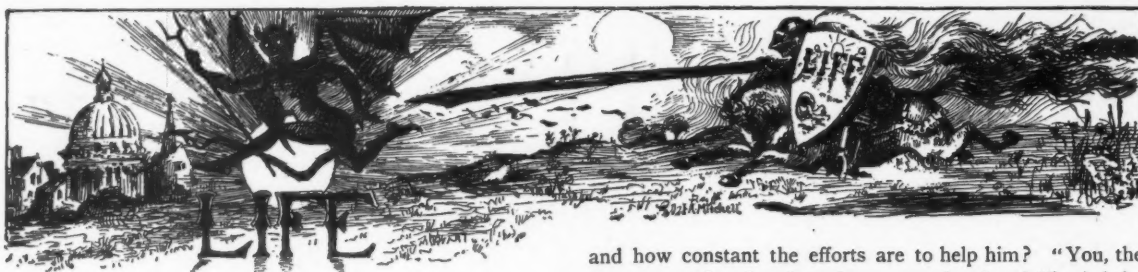
• LIFE •

NUMBER 371.



AN OPPORTUNITY.

Cousin Jack (to the rescue): I SHOULD THINK THAT BOA WOULD MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE, COUSIN FLORENCE.
Miss Caustique: OH, MY, NO. NOT THE ONE I HAVE ON.



"While there's Life there's Hope."

VOL. XV. FEBRUARY 6, 1890. NO. 371.
28 WEST TWENTY-THIRD STREET, NEW YORK.

Published every Thursday. \$5.00 a year in advance, postage free. Single copies, 10 cents. Back numbers can be had by applying to this office. Vol. I., bound, \$30.00; Vol. II., bound, \$10.00; Vols. III., IV., V., VI., VII., VIII., IX., X., XI., XII. and XIII., bound or in flat numbers, at regular rates. Rejected contributions will be destroyed unless accompanied by a stamped and directed envelope. Subscribers wishing address changed will greatly facilitate matters by sending old address as well as new.

APROPOS of something that LIFE said about the disposition of well-to-do people to stick to the towns and let the country and its charms go begging, an Illinois correspondent writes to suggest that nothing would add more to the attractiveness of the country and go further toward luring city people into it than good roads.

Which is entirely true. The country, with good roads, is pleasant when it is hardly tolerable without them. Everybody wants good country roads, and the only question is whether anybody can afford to pay for them. In this State of New York our worthy Governor suggests that the State shall undertake the charge of part of the roads at least and shall build and keep at least two roads in each county, running through the county seat and as nearly at right angles as the lay of the land will allow. The true democratic idea is that every farmer shall keep the highway that borders his own land in a high state of efficiency. He ought to, but he doesn't. So far from making roads, he seems, indeed, to conspire, together with his fellow-farmers, to let the roads that are already made go to rack and ruin. He meanly tries to arrange to do his teaming in the summer when the mud is dry, and over the snow in winter, and in the spring and fall, when the mud is fathomless, he plans to stay at home.

THE farmer won't do very much to make the country attractive. He has been tried. The State may do no better, but give her a chance at any rate. It would be more profitable for us all to see our money go into roads than into sham ceilings and granite continuations of the fatal edifice at Albany. Let us hope that our legislators will forget what the Governor's political complexion is and give his road-making plan due consideration.

WHEN Father Huntington, at the meeting of the Cail the other day, reminded his hearers of the temptations of the rich, and besought them not to abandon their wealthy brethren to a miserable fate, did he realize, do you suppose, how keen is the appreciation of the rich man's fix

and how constant the efforts are to help him? "You, the poor, *were* the church and you are the church!" cried the priest. "Then are those rich exposed to all sorts of deleterious influences. Won't you help to rescue them from their slavery?"

DEAR man, we are doing it. We are trying all the time. We can't make our poverty attractive to the rich, so we do the next best thing—we try to share their riches. They may thump their surpluses down on us, and though the load is heavy, sometimes, we never complain. We even strike from time to time in more effectual demonstration of our willingness to stand our share of temptation, but striking is too expensive. Such evidence of our sincerity ought not to be exacted. The poor have the real missionary spirit in this matter. We appreciate the gumption of the philosopher who divided all people into two classes—those who had the money, and those who were trying to get it away from them. But, after all, our efforts are so outdone by those of greater men that it is no wonder that they are not appreciated. Unless popular estimation is altogether at fault the bishop of the missionary movement for relieving the rich of the temptation of riches is our townsman, Mr. Jay Gould. And the archdeacon of the movement for this year—if missionary movements have archdeacons—is that kind old Mr. Hutchinson, of Chicago. If these two haven't removed the drawback of wealth from many homes, and that at their own personal cost and peril, they are very grossly maligned. There are others in the same movement. The directors of several railroads, notably the Atchison and the Burlington, were lately supposed to be in it, and were somewhat harshly criticised by persons who thought that business and this sort of philanthropy ought to be detached. The West Shore did a great work in this direction before it fell into its present hands, and various Napoleons of Finance have helped the movement on.

BE comforted about the rich. It is encouraging to help them, because, as you see, they help, in this way, one another. If worse comes to worst, there is solace to be found in Mr. Shearman's theory that the big fortunes will grow constantly fewer and bigger, so that in a century or two there will be only a handful of rich to suffer.

RURAL debating societies are discussing this winter whether Talmage or McAllister is the greater man. There is much in common between them. The valuable qualities in each include the faculty for providing entertainment, and they are both organizers. There is far more sense in comparing Talmage with McAllister than with—say, Phillips Brooks.



BUSINESS PRINCIPLES.

She: HE IS A BRILLIANT PREACHER, BUT RATHER TOO WORLDLY, I THINK. THE MAN WHO WORKS FOR THE LORD EXPECTS TO GET PAID AS WELL AS THE REST OF YOU.

He: YES, AND HE DOESN'T WAIT TILL HE GETS TO THE NEXT WORLD TO COLLECT IT, EITHER.

A LESSON IN MORALS.

A TRUSTEE OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM: What are you doing here upon the Sabbath?

LABORING MAN: I would like to see the interior of the museum.

TRUSTEE (*with much severity*): What! Upon the Sabbath? Come some week day, blasphemous wretch!

LABORING MAN: But I am hard at work other days to support my family, and unless I see it Sundays I shall never see it at all.

TRUSTEE: Then never see it at all. Better stay away than jeopardize your soul.

LABORING MAN (*surprised*): Jeopardize my soul! Why, I had heard



PICTORIAL SHAKESPEARE.

"AY, THERE'S THE RUB!"

these museums had an elevating influence.

TRUSTEE: Yes, but not on Sundays.

LABORING MAN: That's very curious! Why do you think so?

TRUSTEE: Because it is wicked.

LABORING MAN: Wicked! I can't believe it.

CHORUS OF ABOUT FIFTY MILLION AMERICANS: Nor we, either.

TRUSTEE: What, defiance? Away, impious brutes! Away, blasphemers!

[*He retires to his own house, which is filled with beautiful works of art, and there tries to realize the enormity of their sin.*]



The Maiden: CLAUDE, DEAR, HOLD TH' UMBRELLY MORE OVER ME OR ELSE TH' PEOPLE'LL THINK WE'RE MARRIED.

BOOKISHNESS

"CANDOR IN FICTION."

A RECENT number of *The New Review* contains brief and very pertinent discussions of "Candor in Fiction," by Walter Besant, Mrs. Lynn Linton and Thomas Hardy—all of them, certainly, among those writers of English fiction who, from their achievements, are entitled to speak on the subject. They agree that in England more than any other country is the novelist hampered by conventionalities in the choice of his subject. Each one of them seriously regrets this condition—though Mr. Besant finds some consolation in believing that while the British matron robs fiction of an element of strength and variety she also keeps out much that is debasing.

Mrs. Lynn Linton, with her accustomed clear vision, sees no palliation for a state of public opinion that is more and more forcing a fine literary art into narrow and unfertile fields. She cannot understand why the British matron and her daughter should deprive thinking men and women of accurate and artistic pictures of life as it is, in which the great passions and facts of existence shall take their proper place. If there are the best of reasons why the Young Woman should not read of these things, then let her have a literature of her own, just as we now have books and magazines for children. But let the Young Woman's influence stop there, and let mature minds be fed with meat.

Because, for most women, a Winchester rifle is a useless

and dangerous weapon shall there be none made for sportsmen? and if they do not delight in playing baseball and cricket shall the national games be abolished?

* * *

THERE is nothing new in these arguments, though they have not been presented before by three such competent authorities. They have a certain degree of application to American fiction, and some Americans have been saying similar things; we have, however, no censorship by Mudie and Smith, the great bugbears of English writers.

In view of the frankness, not to say indecency, of certain popular novels of the past year our fiction writers must cease hiding behind the American girl and her mother, and making them an excuse for the poverty of their inventions. What they want to get is not more freedom in the choice of subjects—for they can evidently have it up to the limit of license—but more art in the treatment of their material. When an American story-writer has learned his trade by a seven years' apprenticeship, as Maupassant did, he will probably find that the American mother can't prevent his doing his very best work on the very best subject he can find. The chances are that the American mother would find in such a work of art "a highly moral lesson"—she always *does* find that excuse for what is clever.

This does not mean that our writers should look at American life through French spectacles. There is enough native immorality here to furnish the American Balzac with material for a hundred novels. If Sin is what the perfect art of the novelist demands he can settle down in New York and revel in it. And if the quality of the wickedness here is not strong enough he can go to Chicago in twenty-four hours and St. Louis in thirty.

But the ambitious genius must first learn that to make fine literature out of full-grown wickedness requires an art so subtle and refined that he may hesitate to believe that he has mastered it at the Brockport Normal School, the Utica Free Academy, or even at Harvard College.

Droch.

NEW BOOKS.

SIX TO ONE. By Edward Bellamy. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The Crime of Sylvester Bonnard. By Anatole France. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Kit and Kitty. By R. D. Blackmore. New York: Harper & Brothers.

Prince Fortunatus. By William Black. New York: Harper & Brothers.

CAME IN EVEN.

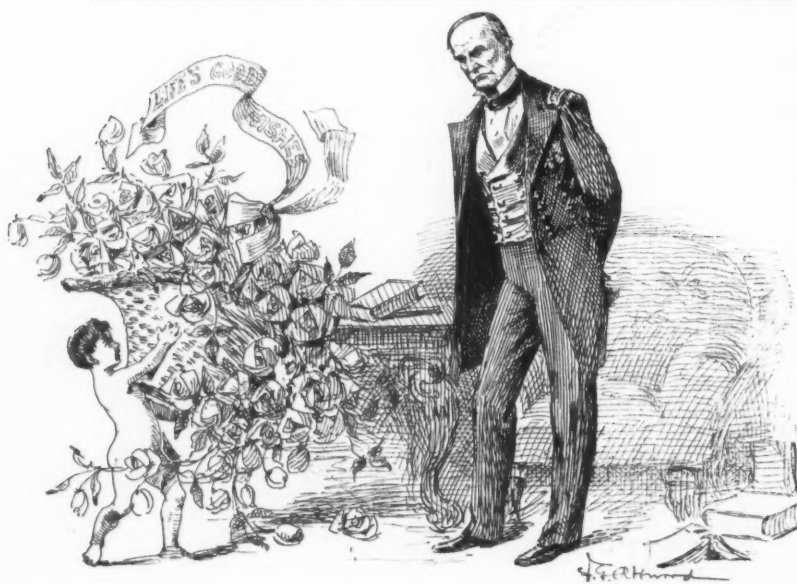
"A H, poor old Thompson ran a long race!"

"Yes, and after all it was a dead heat."

"Why, what do you mean?"

"He was cremated."

IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS—Alcohol.



MANY HAPPY RETURNS!



From the Bed: SO JOHN PROPOSED LAST NIGHT AND YOU ACCEPTED HIM! DO TELL ME HOW IT ALL HAPPENED.

From the Lounge: OH, IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF EMPHASIS.

From the Bed: OF EMPHASIS?

From the Lounge: YES; HE SAID, "DON'T YOU LOVE ME A LITTLE *bit*?" AND I ANSWERED "NO, I DO NOT LOVE YOU A *little* BIT."

DESCRIBED.

"YOU'VE met Wanamaker?"
"Oh, yes."

"What kind of a man is he?"

"Well, he is a man of the postage stamp kind—rather sticky, and a little of him goes a great way."

THE dentist should make a good politician—he is skilled in the use of gas and has a strong pull.

AN OVERDRAWN ACCOUNT
—The sensational newspaper report.

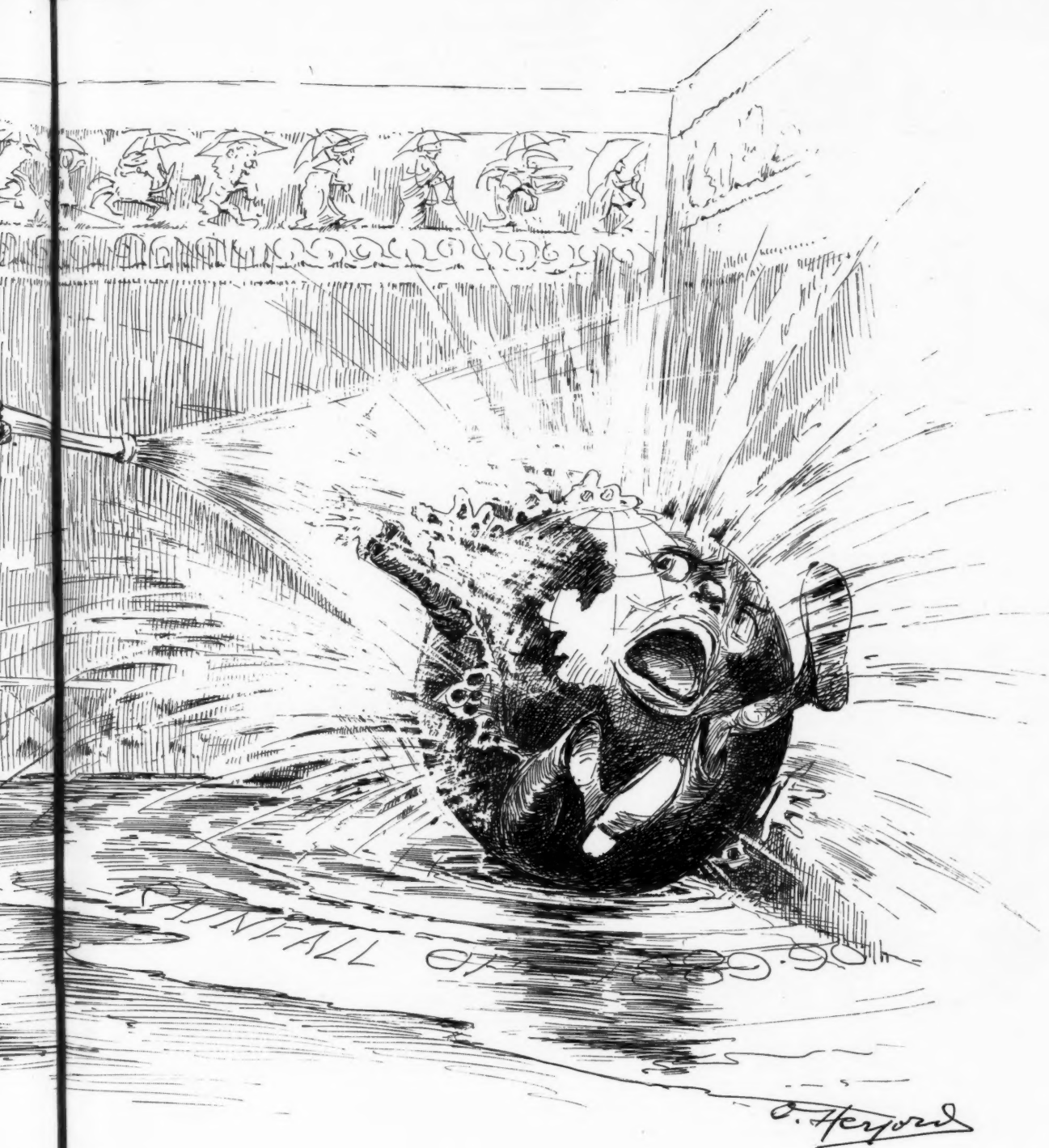


ONE OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF BEING A VERY SMALL BOY AND HAVING TO CARRY A POUND OF MUTTON CHOPS HOME FROM THE STORE.



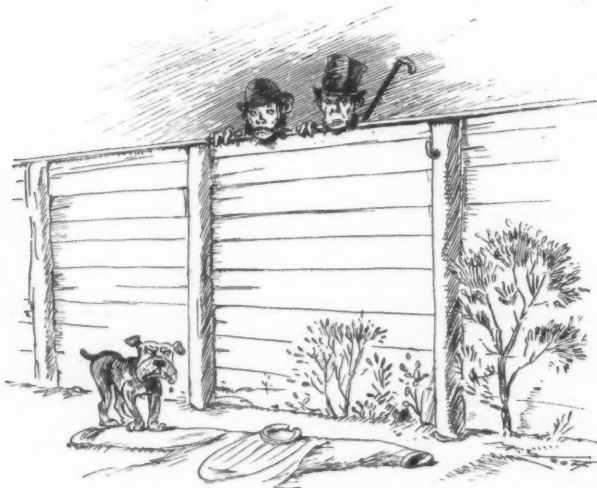
THE VER C

VENUS: WHY, DR. WINTER, WHY DON'T YOU STOP? J
DR. WINTER: THAT'S ALL RIGHT, BUT I AM AID T



THE WATER CURE.

DON'T YOU STOP? JUST SEE HOW WET HE IS NOW!
BUT I AM SURE THERE ARE SOME INHABITANTS THERE YET.



IDEAS DIFFER.

First Tramp: I DON'T SEE WHAT GOOD DOGS IS ANYHOW!
Second Tramp: NOR I—IT'D BE A GOOD THING IF THEY WUZ
 DONE AWAY WITH ALTOGETHER!

THE PARTING OF THE HARE;

OR, THE JACKRABBIT BEARS OUT HIS ARGUMENT.

EH? "How did I know that you hadn't a gun?"
 Pooh! Ask me a harder one, Mr. Man!
 My conscience told *me*—did *you* ever have one?
 Not likely—you're built on the human plan!
 Oho! So you hink I've "a gall for a jack—
 A donkey-eared rabbit—to tal abuse
 To the biped king?" I might answer you back
 That the biped's only a featherless goose!



It's entirely a matter of point of view.

Do you think I'd be such a fork-legged lump—
 Such a bald-skinned, petty-eared error as you?
 What do *you* know of a thirty-foot jump?

Oh! you "take it out in superior brains!"

That's good—if you've got em! But then, you see,
 I've discovered on these Colorado plains
 That *legs* are quite brainy enough for *me*!



Superior nothing! Aha! Look a-there!
 That grizzly comes timely to point my tale!
 You just wished for a gun that would bang the hare,
 But now that it's "Hang the Bear!" you are pale!

Now *I* need no arms—d'you observe these heels?
 He'd have his appetite for his run!
 But *I* hate to disturb a bear at his meals—
 So good-bye, King that is slave to a gun!

Charles F. Lummis.

AN INERADICABLE IMPRESSION.

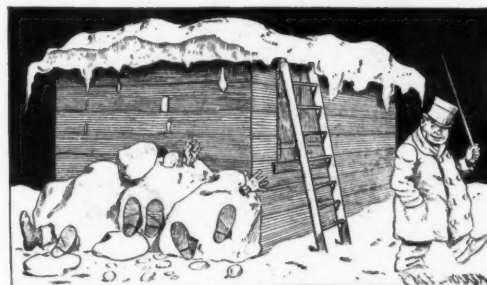
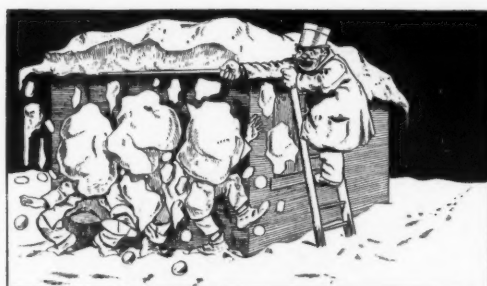
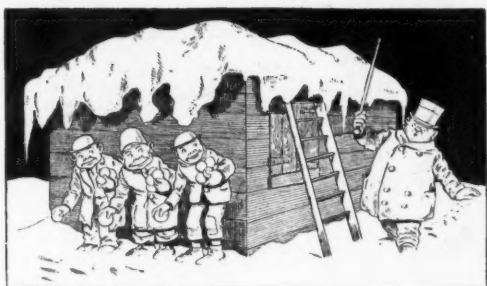
DE LA CREME: My dear D'Aubigny, you are too
 diffident. You are rich, talented, titled—you might
 shine in society.

COUNT D'AUBIGNY: I detest society—that is, I detest—
 I *hate* women!

DE LA CREME: You amaze me! An unfortunate *affaire*
du cœur?

COUNT D'AUBIGNY (*fiercely*): Reginald, you will un-
 derstand me when I tell you that before I came into my
 fortune and title I was a street-car conductor.

THE WICKED BOYS WHO MISCALCULATED.



WORSE YET.

She: I HEAR POOR CHARLEY GOODENOUGH HAS SHOT HIMSELF. DID HE LOSE HIS MONEY?

He: NO. HE MARRIED A WOMAN WITH A MISSION.

EXPERIENTIA DOCET.

CED: Why don't you take your girl skating?

NED: She doesn't know how.

TED: Lucky fellow! That's where all the fun comes in.

ONE GREAT ADVANTAGE.

MADDOX: I like your new house very well, except for one thing.

SIMERAL: What is that?

"There is a saloon directly opposite."

"That is a drawback in one respect, but think what a convenience it is to know where you can always find a policeman near."



SOLVED.



IT was about luncheon time at Delmonico's. A distinguished-looking woman came in and seated herself at one of the tables. Her appearance was such that she attracted considerable attention and became the subject of much conjecture among the other guests. Two gentlemen at the nearest table became greatly interested in her, and one of them wagered that she was a Boston woman. The waiter was appealed to, but could throw no light on the subject, and it seemed as though the bet would have to go undecided. Finally

the waiter asked her if she would have some mustard.

"None, thank you," she replied; "but you may bring me a little of the equine radish."

The man who had bet against Boston paid up at once.



Young Dr. Pille: I ATTENDED MRS. LANGUISH TO-DAY, FATHER, BUT I CAN'T SEE FOR THE LIFE OF ME THAT ANYTHING IS THE MATTER WITH HER.

Old Dr. Pille (gasping): BUT FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, MY BOY, I HOPE YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING OF THE KIND TO *her*!

Young Dr. Pille: NO, FATHER.

Old Dr. Pille: GOOD! YOU KNOW A HEALTHY PATIENT LASTS A LONG TIME, MORTIMER!



"YOUR SON WAS HERE YESTERDAY AND HAD THAT PICTURE TAKEN."

"THAT'S LIKE HIM."

"AND HE SAID YOU WOULD BE AROUND TO PAY FOR IT."

"AND THAT'S LIKE HIM."



AN AGGRAVATED CASE OF GRIP.



THE FISH IN THE SEA.

THERE are fish in the sea good as ever were caught;
But I don't see the comfort by that saying taught,
For we've really no cause to be thankful about
The fish in the sea—if we can't get them out.

—Detroit Critic.

BENNEY: Mr. Sloat, will you give your daughter to me in marriage?
MR. SLOAT: Well, well! I see that you don't know my daughter as yet.

BENNEY (*astonished*): Wh—what do you mean, sir?

MR. SLOAT: If you had been thoroughly acquainted with her you would have said: "Will you give me to your daughter in marriage?"—*Kearney Enterprise*.

YOUNG LADY (*evidently much distressed and embarrassed*): Doctor Fatte, I just know I shall never die a sudden death.

DOCTOR FATTE: Indeed! my dear young lady! and what induces you to think thus?

YOUNG LADY: Because you are now, and have been for the last five minutes, sitting upon poor, dear, little Fido, and I still live!—*Cincinnati Chic*.

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AMY: You were entirely alone, weren't you, Mr. Dolley?

DOLLEY: Yes, Miss Amy, until you came I was alone with my thoughts.

AMY: That's what I said. You were entirely alone.—*N. Y. Sun*.



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(February)

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• LIFE •



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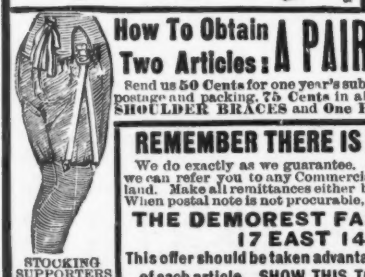
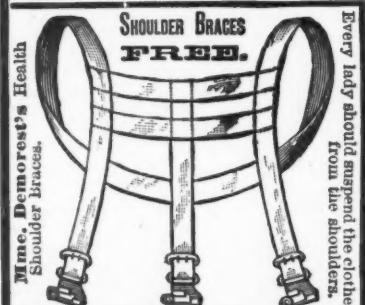
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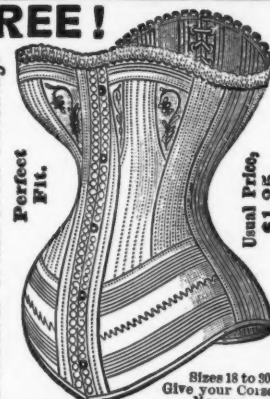
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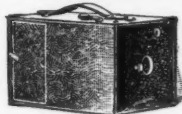
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